Leo. No come brother,away, I wil be heard. *Exeunt amb.*
Bro. And shal, or some of vs wil smart for it. *Enter Ben.*
Prince See see,heere comes the man we went to seeke.
Claud. Now signior,what newes?
Bened. Good day my Lord:
Prince Welcome signior, you are almost come to parte almost a fray.
Claud. Wee had likt to haue had our two noses snapt off with two old men without teeth.
Prince Leonato and his brother what thinkst thou? had we fought,I doubt we should haue beene too yong for them.
Bened. In a false quarrell there is no true valour, I came to seeke you both.
Claud. We haue beene vp and downe to seeke thee,for we are high proofe melancholie, and would faine haue it beaten away, wilt thou vse thy wit?
Bened. It is in my scabberd, shal I drawe it?
Prince Doest thou weare thy wit by thy side?
Claud. Neuer any did so,though very many haue been beside their wit, I will bid thee drawe,as wee doe the minstrels, draw to pleasure vs.
Prince As I am an honest man he lookes pale, art thou sicke,or angry?
Claud. What,courage man: what though care kild a catte, thou hast mettle enough in thee to kill care.
Bened. Sir, I shall meete your wit in the careere, and you charge it against me, I pray you chuse another subiect
Claud. Nay then giue him another staffe,this last was broke crosse.
Prince By this light,he chaunges more and more, I thinke he be angry indeed.
Claud. If he be,he knowes how to turne his girdle.
Bened. Shall I speake a word in your eare?
Claud. God blesse me from a challenge.
Bened. You are a villaine, I iest not, I will make it good howe you dare, with what you dare, and when you dare: doe mee right,or I will protest your cowardise: you haue killd a

sweeete Lady, and her death shall fall heauie on you, let m
heare from you.
Claud. Well I wil meet you,so I may haue good cheare.
Prince What,a feast, a feast?
Claud. I faith I thanke him he hath bid me to a calues hea
& a capon,the which if I doe not carue most curiously,say m
kniffe's naught, shall I not find a woodcocke too?
Bened. Sir your wit ambles well, it goes easily.
Prince Ile tell thee how Beatrice praisd thy witte the othe
day: I said thou hadst a fine witte, true said she,a fine little one
no said I,a great wit: right saies she, a great grosse one: nay sai
I, a good wit, iust said she,it hurts no body: nay said I, the gen
tleman is wise: certaine said she, a wise gentleman: nay said I,h
hath the tongues: that I beleeue said shee, for he swore a thing
to mee on munday night,which hee forswore on tuesday mor
ning, theres a double tongue theirs two tongues, thus did shee
an houre together transshape thy particular vertues,yet at last
she cõcluded with a sigh,thou wast the properst man in Italy.
Claud. For the which shee wept heartily and saide she cared not.
Prince Yea that she did, but yet for all that, and if she did
not hate him deadly, she would loue him dearely, the old mans
daughter told vs all.
Claud. All all, and moreouer,God sawe him when he was
hid in the garden.
Prince But when shall we set the sauage bulles hornes one
the sensible Benedicks head?
Clau. Yea and text vnder-neath, here dwells Benedick the
married man.
Bened. Fare you wel, boy,you know my minde, I wil leaue
you now to your gossep-like humor,you breake iests as brag-
gards do their blades, which God be thanked hurt not: my
Lord,for your many courtisies I thanke you, I must discontinue your company,your brother the bastard is fled from Messina: you haue among you, kild a sweet and innocent lady: for my Lord Lacke-beard, there hee and I shal meet,and till then peace be with him.